

THE ALAMOGORDO RETIRED CHIEFS (E9) GROUP

September 10, 2018

The Honorable Steve Pearce
U.S. House of Representatives
2432 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Pearce,

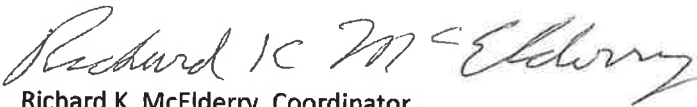
Our veterans deserve the representation and recognition they have rightfully earned, which is why I support the naming of the Las Cruces, New Mexico Community Outpatient Center after the service members who bravely fought in the Battle of Bataan.

The Battle of Bataan was one of the fiercest campaigns of World War II where the American – Pilipino forces that were outnumbered, outgunned, and undersupplied were steadfast in their defense. New Mexico's 1,800 plus guardsmen were an integral part of this fighting force that held the line for months. These soldiers fought valiantly to ensure the United States had the time to re-group and organize an offensive against the enemy that would eventually lead to an allied victory.

Unfortunately, these soldiers were forced to surrender after running out of food and ammunition. These brave souls were then forced to undergo what is now known as the Bataan Death March, a 65 mile trek with no food, little water, and constant brutal beatings. These men kept their heads held high, and looked to their fellow brothers in arms to keep going. No one knows the exact number of deaths that occurred during this Battle or subsequent March, but less than half of the New Mexican troops ever made it home.

We must honor these soldiers that sacrificed so much for this country and this community. We must never forget the epic struggle these courageous men went through. In closing, I will leave you with the words of a Lieutenant from the battlefield, "Bataan has fallen, but the spirit that made it stand - - a beacon to all the liberty-loving peoples of the word - - cannot fall."

Sincerely,



Richard K. McElderry, Coordinator
CMSGT RETIRED, USAF



DISTRICT 4 NEW MEXICO

September 1, 2018

The Honorable Stevan Pearce
U.S. House of Representatives
2432 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Pearce,

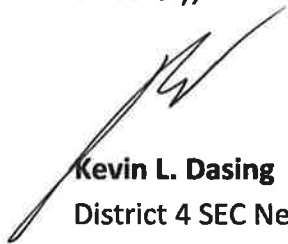
I support your bill to designate the Las Cruces Community Based Outpatient Center as the "Las Cruces Bataan Memorial Clinic." This name honors the historic sacrifice New Mexican servicemen have made to protect our nation.

On December 8, 1941, New Mexican National Guard troops in the 200th Coast Artillery Regiment were fired upon by enemy troops, beginning the infamous four month Battle of Bataan. On April 9, 1942, after admirably holding their ground, our troops surrendered and were forced to walk 65 miles in what would later become known as the "Bataan Death March." This year marks the 76th Anniversary of the march, which holds significance for us, as nearly 2,000 of the men in the Bataan Death March were from New Mexico's National Guard.

New Mexico is proud of those servicemen who endured the Bataan Death March to protect us. Many members of our community have served in the armed forces or serve as the support system for family and friends in uniform. Dona Ana County alone has over 15,000 veterans. Our community is proud of their courage in choosing to defend our nation and thankful for the sacrifice made by those who are unable to return home to us.

We wish to honor and thank these brave servicemen for their service to our community. The support for one another and perseverance displayed by the New Mexicans in the Bataan Death March exemplifies the American spirit. To express our gratitude, we support this bill to designate this clinic as the Las Cruces Bataan Memorial Clinic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin L. Dasing', written over a horizontal line.

Kevin L. Dasing

District 4 SEC New Mexico

Chapter 1 Fort Bayard

Chapter 10 Las Cruces

Chapter 14 Alamogordo

Chapter 25 Chaparral

Chapter 38 Mesilla



September 9, 2018

The Honorable Steve Pearce
US House of Representatives
2432 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Pearce,

When I heard that you were looking for a name for our new outpatient center in Las Cruces, NM, I immediately thought of naming it after the Battle of Bataan in memory of the survivors.

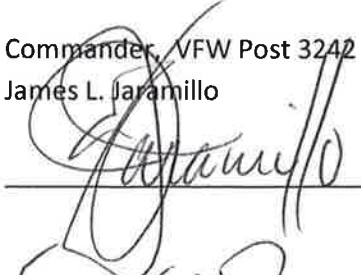
The Battle of Bataan was one the WWII's most infamously remembered battles, especially here in Las Cruces and in the state of New Mexico. New Mexico had over 1,900 National Guardsmen in the Philippines when the war started. At the time of the Japanese aggression at Bataan, American and Philippine forces were severely outnumbered and outgunned. Supplies that were promised never arrived, and, as a result, they were compelled to surrender to the Japanese Imperial forces. Upon surrender, they were forced to march nearly 70 miles, during which time they were severely beaten and nearly starved; and under such horrible conditions the march is ignominiously known as the Bataan Death March.

Our VFW Post, 3242, had quite a few Death March survivors: Smokey Martinez, Lawrence "Lencho" Banegas, and Ruben Flores, to name a few. In fact, our banquet hall is named after Ruben Flores. Post 3242 is very proud of our Bataan survivors and their families. To the same degree, the families in this community would also be greatly honored to have the new outpatient center named after their loved ones who suffered so much during their four years of captivity. It would be a profound honor to our community and nation to have this center after those veterans.

Please consider the deep value the Bataan Death March holds for our area and how important it would be for all in our community to be able to commemorate them in such noble fashion.

Sincerely,

Commander, VFW Post 3242
James L. Jaramillo

 Date: 9-10-18
Enc (1) Pictures of RUBEN FLORES!



RUBEN FLORES

BATAAN DEATH MARCH SURVIVOR

Lincoln/Otero County Veterans Leadership Council

Alamogordo, New Mexico

September 10, 2018

The Honorable Steve Pearce
U.S. House of Representatives
2432 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Pearce,

Our veterans deserve the representation and recognition they have rightfully earned, which is why the Lincoln/Otero Veterans Leadership Council supports the naming of the Las Cruces, New Mexico Community Outpatient Center after the service members who bravely fought in the Battle of Bataan.

The Battle of Bataan was one of the fiercest campaigns of World War II where the American – Pilipino forces that were outnumbered, outgunned, and undersupplied were steadfast in their defense. New Mexico's 1,800 plus guardsmen were an integral part of this fighting force that held the line for months. These soldiers fought valiantly to ensure the United States had the time to re-group and organize an offensive against the enemy that would eventually lead to an allied victory.

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Sincerely,



Milton L. Chestnut, Chairman